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C-ATECHISM FOR FREE WORKING MEN.

BY THE SON OF A BLACKSMITH.

As I have taken it upon myself to write a Catechism for my fellow working men, I deem it proper to give some account of myself.

I was born in Jefferson county, East Tennessee, within six miles of Dandridge. My father was a blacksmith, and by industry he procured a good farm. He had ten sons, and no slaves. I had a taste for almost all kinds of business. During a number of years I farmed diligently, raised cotton, wheat and corn. When not farming, I employed myself at some other useful business. I would make a gate when one was needed, stock a plow, or make harnessing for the horses. I also made shoes for the family, and often helped my father in his shop. Thus I was "Jack-of-all-trades," and my father's family predicted that I would always be a poor man, because I could do so many things; and that prediction came well nigh being true. I am now sixty-eight years old, and I can not now call much of this world my own. I have had a long life and much hard labor, and I labor still. I have always felt a deep sympathy for the laboring classes of society; and now, when I must soon leave the world, I desire to do them the greatest good in my power.

CATECHISM.

Question 1.—What has broken up the peace of our nation, and trampled our glorious flag in the dust?

Answer.—The slaveholding power.

Q. 2.—Of what does the slaveholding power consist?

A.—It consists of three hundred and fifty thousand slaveholders.

Q. 3.—What evidence is there that the slaveholding power has broken up the peace of the nation, and trampled our GLORIOUS FLAG in the dust?

A.—All the free States are loyal to the General Government, and in the slave States where slaves are few, as in Western Virginia and East Tennessee, there is but little rebellion; and where slaves are very numerous, there is the highest state of rebellion. These facts show clearly that the slaveholding power has produced the insurrection against the national Government.

Q. 4.—What has enabled these three hundred and fifty thousand slaveholders to break up the peace of a nation of thirty-one millions of people?

A.—The holding of four millions of slaves, with lands on which to work them, has enabled them to break up the peace of the nation, large as it is. This is a combination large enough to endanger the peace and welfare of any nation, however large that nation may be.

Q. 5.—By what means does the slaveholding power so control the non-slaveholders of the South as to get up so large a rebellion?

A.—By working millions of men and women without wages, they deprive the poor white people of the means of profitable employment, and of schooling their children; consequently, the mass of the non-slaveholders are held in such a state of poverty, ignorance, and consequent dependence, as enables the slaveholders to control them as certainly as they do their slaves.

Q. 6.—Will not the continuance of the slaveholding power reduce the slaveholding States to utter barbarism?

A.—It has already to a great extent extinguished the sources of light, and, by its vices and crimes, has abolished the moral sense of the people.

Q. 7.—What evidence is there that the slaveholding States are sinking into a state of barbarism?

A.—The cruelties they commit upon innocent persons. Large is the number they have coated with tar and feathers; large is the number they have cruelly whipped; and large is the number they have murdered; vast are the robberies whole States have committed upon the national Government; vast

are the robberies committed on private persons; whole States have repudiated just debts. Vast is the rebellion raised against the general Government, without the slightest cause. All these facts show that the moral sense of the slaveholding States is abolished, and that there is a rapid returning to savage life.

Q. 8.—What other evils have the slaveholding power inflicted upon the free States?

A.—They are so numerous that only a few of them can now be mentioned. The slaveholding power, by getting up this great rebellion, has broken up the regular channels of commerce, and consequently has caused a stagnation of business, by which thousands upon thousands of our enterprising business men are broken up and reduced to poverty; and vast are the numbers of the laboring classes that are deprived of employment and reduced to suffering and want. The free States have been obliged to furnish men and money to resist this enormous slaveholding power, and save the Government from utter ruin. Hundreds of millions of dollars must be expended, and what is vastly worse, great must be the sacrifice of life. Many have already fallen upon the field of battle.

Q. 9.—Shall we suffer these three hundred and fifty thousand men, who have committed all these enormities, and who are now drenching this nation with blood, to continue to hold their unjust, ruinous power?

A.—No! never! They have forfeited their lives and property. Let us free their slaves. Let the working and business men of the nation demand this of the Government, and it will be done. Nothing short of this can ever make this nation a Union. Let this be done, and the down-trodden white people of the South will soon feel deliverance and shout for joy. The welfare of the whole nation demands the entire abolition of the slaveholding power. A thousand millions of dollars will not repair the damage they have already done, aside from the lives sacrificed, for which no reparation can be made. These three hundred and fifty thousand slaveholders have clothed this nation of thirty-one millions of people in mourning. Shall this ruinous power be permitted to live and rise again and drench this land with blood? I call upon my fellow working men, and all who desire the welfare of this

nation, and entreat them, by all the principles of justice and humanity, and by the sorrows of those who are weeping over dear relatives slain in battle, to unite in demanding of the Government the abolition of the slaveholding power.

Q. 10.—Would not the slaves, if liberated, come into the free States, and be a nuisance?

A.—They will have no inducement to come to the free States. They can live more cheaply in the South than in the North, because less clothing and fuel are necessary, and the products of the South are more profitable than those of the North, consequently wages will be better. The women that are now working in the fields will go to house-keeping, and this will create a demand for a half more hands, and the larger part of the colored people of the free States will go to meet that demand. By the laws of affinity, the colored people will go together and occupy the warmer parts of the South, and the white people will occupy the cooler parts, and gradually a separation between the races will take place, by the operation of the laws of affinity, without any wrong.

Such as are opposed to colored people living in the free States, should go for freeing the slaves. That will, to a great extent, draw the colored people to the South. So long as slavery exists, the free colored people will be forced out upon the free States. Such as are opposed to the increase of the colored race in this country, should go for freeing the slaves. Slavery, by breeding slaves for market, unduly increases the race. When liberated, the colored people will increase by laws of marriage, and, consequently, they will increase less than when bred for market. So long as slavery exists, slaves will be brought in from Africa, in despite of all the laws that can be made. All who hate the negroes should go for freeing the slaves. It will lessen the increase of the race in this nation. Let not our hatred of negroes, nor our prejudices against them, induce us to suffer that power to exist longer, which has brought so much ruin upon our nation, and which is now drenching our land with blood, and reducing a large section of our country to a state of barbarism.